



# THE SCOPE

Fall 2008

## INSIDE VIEW...

An Investors Best Friends:  
*Contributed by Jack Short,  
Certified Financial Planner*

Special-Needs Planning  
*Contributed by Christopher R.  
Gamber, Esq.*

Raise Your Voice

It Belongs to Me:  
International Credit Union  
Day is October 16th

## BRANCHES:

**Research Triangle Park**  
21 Park Drive  
Durham, NC 27709  
Mon-Fri 8:30 - 5:30  
(lobby and drive-thru)

**Raleigh**  
7560 Creedmoor Road  
Raleigh, NC 27613  
Mon-Fri 8:30-5:30  
(lobby and drive-thru)

**Cary**  
915 North Harrison Avenue  
Cary, NC 27513  
Mon-Fri 8:30-5:30  
(lobby and drive-thru)

Member Call Center –  
919.941.5700  
Website: www.rtpfcu.org

## Your Accounts are Safe, Secure and Federally Insured

Lately it's there every time you turn on the TV, listen to the radio or surf the Internet. No, I'm not talking about what celebrity did something crazy this week – but the economy, more specifically – financial institutions. Over the past several weeks we have seen numerous media reports about the funding difficulties of various financial institutions resulting from the mortgage crisis. Across the U.S., people are letting out giant gasps wondering if their financial institution is safe – more importantly their money.

The problems facing the banking and savings and loan industries are well known. But, while times have been trying for other financial institutions, credit unions have grown in financial strength. Our insurance fund, the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF), is the strongest of all federal deposit insurance funds. Established by Congress in 1970, this fund is managed by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) and insures each member's deposits for up to at least \$100,000.00 on deposit (with additional coverage of up to \$250,000 for certain retirement accounts).

While the news continues to shine a dim light on the economy, do not worry about your assets being at risk with us. Credit Unions are safe and strong. RTP Federal Credit Union is safe and strong.

RTP Federal Credit Union will be closed for the holidays:

November 27th and 28th:  
THANKSGIVING

December 25th and 26th:  
CHRISTMAS



## America's Credit Unions: Secure and Strong

### Credit unions as a whole are healthy, with strong balance sheets.

- Credit unions are well capitalized. Their overall capital-to-asset ratio stands at a very solid 11.1% (compared to 10% for banks). In dollars, that's a capital cushion of \$90 billion.
- Credit union mortgage delinquencies at the end of the first quarter stood at only 0.7%.

### Credit unions have steered clear of the subprime mess. We're still lending responsibly.

- In the first four months of 2008, mortgages at credit unions grew faster than all other loans. This at a time when mortgage losses have forced other lenders to scale back or close their doors entirely.
- Why? For one thing, credit unions operate more conservatively and tend to hold more of their mortgage loans (about 70% in fact) in portfolio rather than sell them to Fannie and Freddie on the secondary market. Rather than practice abusive lending practices, credit unions are not driven by commission, but motivated by healthy performing loans that are good for members.

continued on pg.4- see Credit Unions





## Bank Smart with Online Services

Enjoy the ease and convenience of banking 24/7 through our online services. Eliminate the worry of beating the clock to make it to the credit union. Now you can bank when it suits your schedule! We offer a full range of products and services to meet your needs.

### *Check-out our online services.*

- **Home Banking:** Manage your finances 24/7 and on your terms. Check account balances, transfer funds between RTP FCU accounts and view 2-sided images of cleared checks.
- **eStatements:** Conveniently access your financial statements online, whenever you want, instantly-free of charge. All historical statements are stored online for anytime access.
- **Bill Pay and Presentment:** Offers you not only the ability to pay all of your bills from one simple-to-use site, but also provides you with the convenience of receiving, viewing, and managing your bills at the same online location. A FREE service if you are enrolled in eStatements.
- **Direct Deposit:** Eliminate standing in line, lost or stolen checks, or extra trips to the credit union. Opt for the fast and convenient way to deposit payroll, social security checks, government or retirement checks.
- **Online Loan Applications:** Update your member information, apply for a new account or loan all online by the simple click of a few buttons.

For more information about our Online Services, please contact us at (919) 941-5700 or visit our website at [www.rtpfcu.org](http://www.rtpfcu.org).

## An Investor's Best Friends by Jack Short, Certified Financial Planner®

**A**ny investor would do well to call on three friends during the course of his or her financial life: diversification, patience and consistency. Regardless of how the markets perform, they should be a part of your investment philosophy.

**Diversification.** The saying “don’t put all your eggs in one basket” has real value when it comes to investing. In a bear market, certain asset classes may perform better than others. Ditto for a bull market. If your assets are mostly held in one kind of investment (say, mostly in mutual funds, or mostly in CDs or money market accounts), you could be hit hard by stock market losses, or alternately lose out on potential gains that other kinds of investments may be experiencing. So there is an opportunity cost as well as risk.

This is why asset allocation strategies are used in portfolio management. A financial advisor can ask you about your goals and tolerance for risk and assign percentages of your assets to different classes of investments. This diversification is designed to suit your preferred investment style and your objectives. Diversification does not assure a profit and does not protect against a loss in declining markets.

**Patience.** Impatient investors obsess on the day-to-day doings of the stock market. Have you ever heard of “stock picking” or “market timing”? How about “day trading”? These are all attempts to exploit short-term fluctuations in value. These investing methods might seem fun and exciting if you like to micromanage, but they will add stress and anxiety to your life, and they are a poor alternative to a long-range investment strategy built around your life goals.

**Consistency.** Most people invest a little at a time, within their budget, and with regularity. They invest \$50 or \$100 or more per month in their 401(k) and similar investments through payroll deduction or automatic withdrawal. In essence, they are investing on “autopilot” to help themselves build wealth for retirement and for long-range goals. Investing regularly (and earlier in life) helps you to take advantage of the power of compounding as well.

Are diversification, patience and consistency part of your investing approach? Make sure they are. If you don’t have a long-range investment strategy, talk to a qualified financial advisor today.

Jack Short is available for consultation at RTP Federal Credit Union’s RTP Financial Center. He can be reached directly at (919) 406-1818.

*These views are those of the author and should not be construed as investment advice. All information is believed to be from reliable sources; however we make no representation as to its completeness or accuracy. Please consult your Financial Advisor for further information.*

Securities offered through Securities Service Network, Inc.  
Member NASD and SIPC  
Investments are not insured by the NCUA and involve investment risk including possible loss of principal thought of as an ongoing process, not just a one-time transaction.

## Special Needs Planning

Contributed by Christopher R. Gamber, Esq.

Gamber@SeidelGamber.com

Seidel Gamber, PLLC

If you are a parent of a child with disabilities or special needs, you may be facing the reality that your child will never be completely independent. Understandably, your greatest fear may be 'how do I ensure my child is cared for when I am gone?' While this fear is natural, there are steps you can take to ease that angst and, more importantly, establish a legacy that will help provide for your child.

All planning by parents, whether done properly or improperly, can have drastic effects on the life of a special needs child, as well as the lives of his siblings who frequently are cast in the role of future caregiver. Therefore when undertaking special needs planning, parents must realize that the ongoing care of a special needs child will likely create a significant financial burden on whoever eventually takes on the role as guardian and caregiver. The selection of the person to serve as guardian should entail a thorough discussion with the prospective guardian to make sure they understand the personal and financial implications, as well as the responsibility which is inherent in the role. When selecting guardians, it is also advisable to appoint a successor guardian in case the primary guardian is unable or unwilling to act when the time of need arises.

Additionally, improper planning could have a drastic effect on the possibility of acquiring or retaining government benefits which would otherwise be available to meet the needs of your child. Unfortunately these benefits, which can be of critical importance, could be easily lost when an inheritance is given directly to the child. In such a situation, only once the inherited money is nearly exhausted will the child re-qualify for the government benefits. However, with proper planning—typically involving a special needs trust—those critical government benefits can be maintained. Then any money which is left for the child's benefit can be utilized to provide for supplemental needs to more directly enhance the child's quality of life.

At the end of the day, no amount of planning may adequately alleviate a parents' desire to protect and provide for their child—but, some properly implemented planning can render some peace of mind that your child will have a better quality of life than otherwise would have been realized.

### Don't Wait... Rates are Great!

Thinking of buying or refinancing a home? Now is a great time to make it happen. Mortgage interest rates are among the lowest in 30 years. Don't let these rates get away.

Contact Scott Kesselman, our mortgage loan officer, today at (919) 248-9325 or [scottk@homeloancu.com](mailto:scottk@homeloancu.com).



## Raise Your Voice

We Need to Hear From You

October 8, 2007 RTP Federal Credit Union converted our old character-based core operating system to a new open architecture that we thought was an upgraded system that would enhance our ability to better serve our members. Much to our surprise and dismay, the new system was so new that it had a lot of bugs, requiring many hours of programming and testing to fix. We would have never subjected you (our members) to the kinds of problems the new system caused during the first several months after conversion. We know many of you have experienced problems and or had concerns since our system conversion and we would like to hear from you. We think the computer company should hear that from you – not just from us. We ask that you write to us voicing your thoughts, frustrations and opinions regarding this conversion. Those letters will be then sent to the president of the company. Thank you for your continued support. Together, we will be heard.

You may send a letter or an email to our Marketing/Business Development Manager, Jill Beck at PO Box 12807, RTP, NC 27709 or [beck@rtpfcu.org](mailto:beck@rtpfcu.org).

Doug Wilkerson  
President  
RTP Federal Credit Union

## Congrats RTP FCU for Making the

Western Wake Top 100 list of the 100 most influential companies in Western Wake County.



WESTERN WAKE

100



## “It’s Show Time!” The Broadway Series South Season is Here!

We are excited to offer our members the benefit of discounted tickets for the 2008-2009 Broadway Series South season. During this season, some of the most famous shows in the business are hitting the stage locally at the Raleigh Progress Energy Center of the Performing Arts.

### Check-out some of the upcoming shows!

Performance	Date of Show
Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood	Oct. 30
Rain	Nov. 4, 5, 9
Annie	Nov. 18, 19, 23
Chicago	Dec. 2, 3, 7
Rat Pack	Dec. 30, 31 & Jan. 4
A Chorus Line	Jan. 6, 7, 11
Art Garfunkel	Feb. 6
Stomp	Feb. 10, 11, 15

For a complete listing of upcoming shows and to get discounted ticket information contact Amy VanCooney at (919)-941-5700 x 127 or at [vancooney@rtppfcu.org](mailto:vancooney@rtppfcu.org).

## Candidates Needed 2009 Board of Directors

If you are interested in running for a position on the credit union’s Board of Directors, we are now accepting nominations. As a board member, you would volunteer your time each month to help determine our rates, set policies, and determine the overall direction of RTP Federal Credit Union.

If interested, please contact Doug Wilkerson at (919) 941-5700 x114 or [wilkerson@rtppfcu.org](mailto:wilkerson@rtppfcu.org) before November 3, 2008.

## Spotlight on... Anthony Hromada, System Technician Second Quarter Spotlight Award Winner

Congratulations to Anthony Hromada for being the second quarter spotlight award winner. He was selected for exceeding his supervisor’s expectations by going above and beyond the call of duty to demonstrate the core values that define RTP Federal Credit Union.

Anthony will have been with the credit union for 10 years in February. He started as a Teller, then worked as a Member Service Representative and ACH Processor, before moving to his current position as System Technician. Thank you and congratulations for your hard work and dedication!



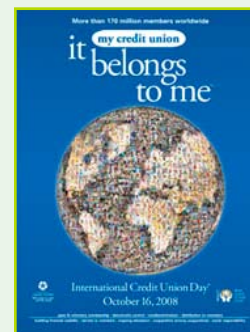
*Denis Graham, IS Manager remarked:*

“He is always willing to help others and is extremely dependable. Anthony takes ownership of problems that he discovers and attempts to fix the problem.”

## It Belongs to Me: International Credit Union Day

At RTP Federal Credit Union, we take pride in our heritage as a cooperative financial services provider and our connection to credit unions worldwide. On October 16th, we’ll celebrate International Credit Union Day along with credit unions and their members around the world.

This year’s “It Belongs to Me” theme illustrates how each customer is not only a member but an owner of the credit union. This year we celebrate the economic democracy and equal ownership of each member, regardless of how much money a member may have in savings. Help us celebrate on October 16th. We will have giveaways and refreshments available in our branches.



## Credit Unions *(continued from page 1)*

- Secondly, credit unions are member-owned and not-for-profit cooperatives. We exist to serve our members, not profit from them.

### Federal insurance covers credit unions.

- Virtually all credit unions are federally insured by a fund that, like the FDIC, is backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government.
- As the FDIC does for banks, the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF) insures savings of at least up to \$100,000 per account (with additional coverage of up to \$250,000 for certain retirement accounts).
- The NCUSIF is administered by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), an agency of the federal government. To determine insurance coverage, see the NCUA’s insurance estimator at <http://webapps.ncua.gov/ins/>